

MARVEL
COMICS

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330

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APPROVED
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AUTHORITY

GUEST-STARRING

GAMBIT

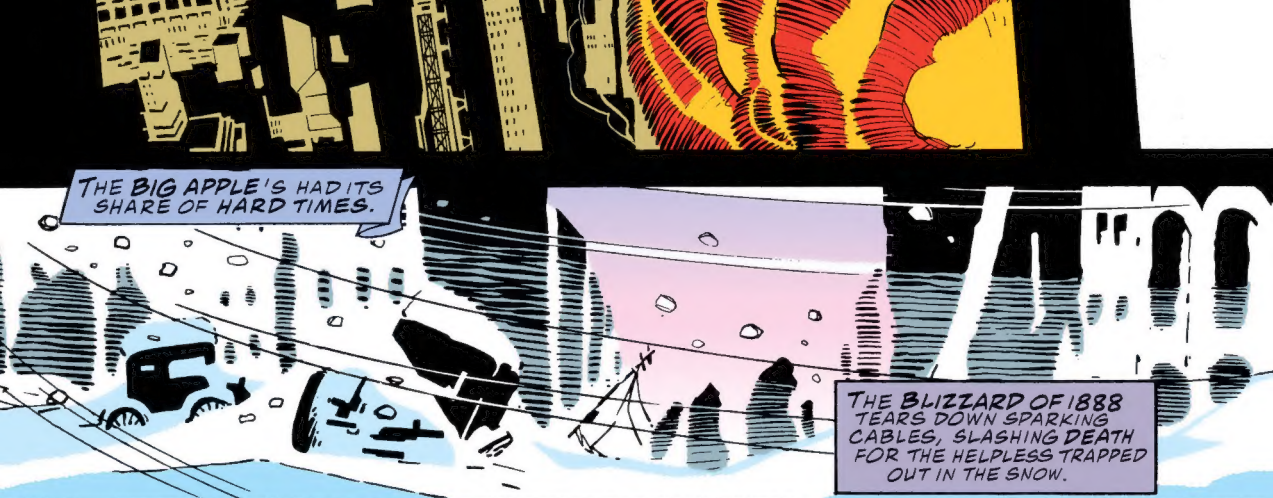
BUT NOT EVEN HE
CAN SAVE D.D. AND
NEW YORK FROM
THE HI-TECH
ASSASSINS CALLED--

DAREDEVIL
TREE OF KNOWLEDGE NOV



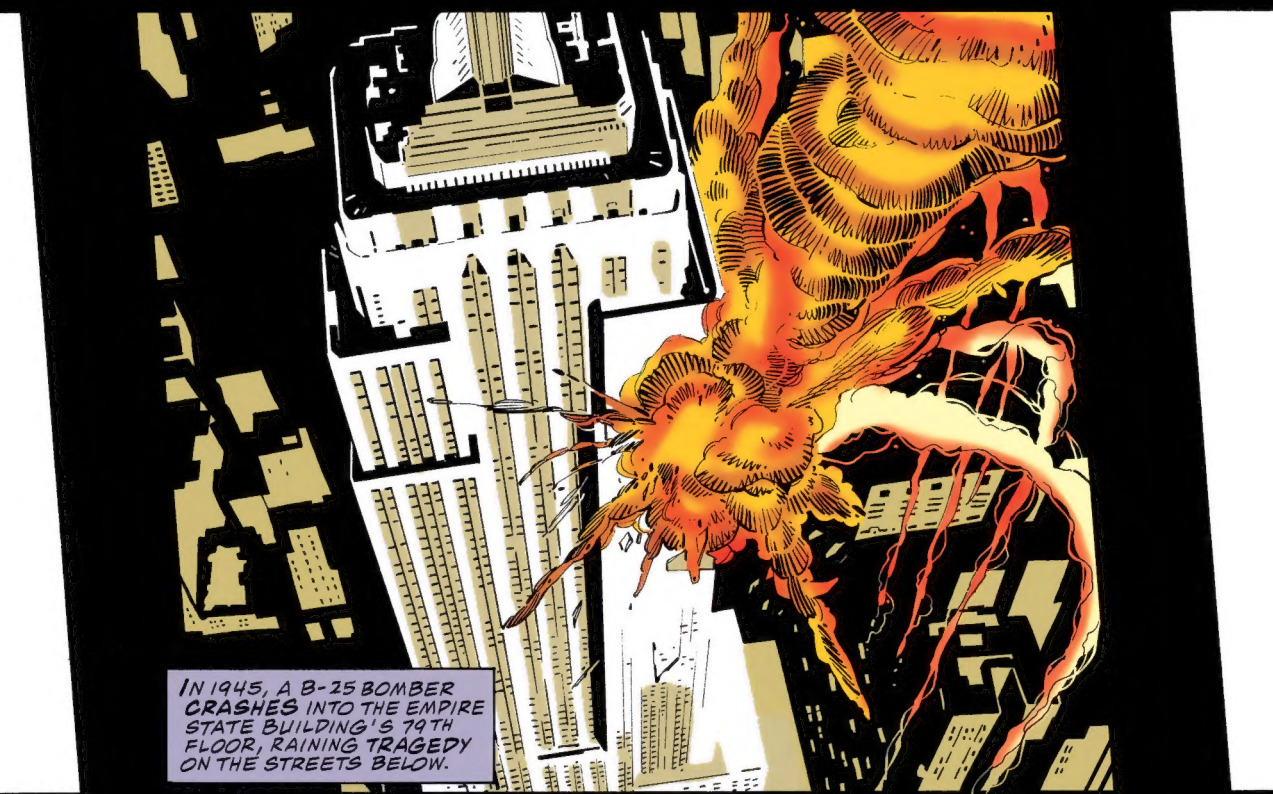
MEDANIEL

**SYSTEM
CRASH!**

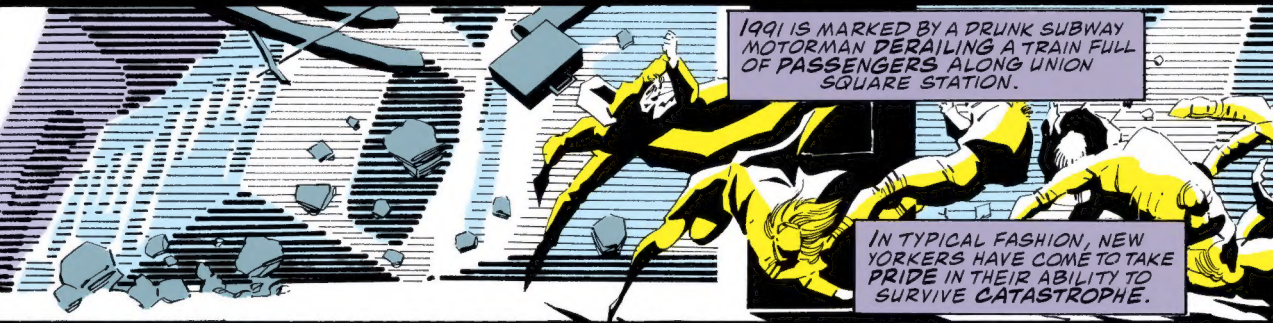


THE BIG APPLE'S HAD ITS SHARE OF HARD TIMES.

THE BLIZZARD OF 1888 TEARS DOWN SPARKING CABLES, SLASHING DEATH FOR THE HELPLESS TRAPPED OUT IN THE SNOW.

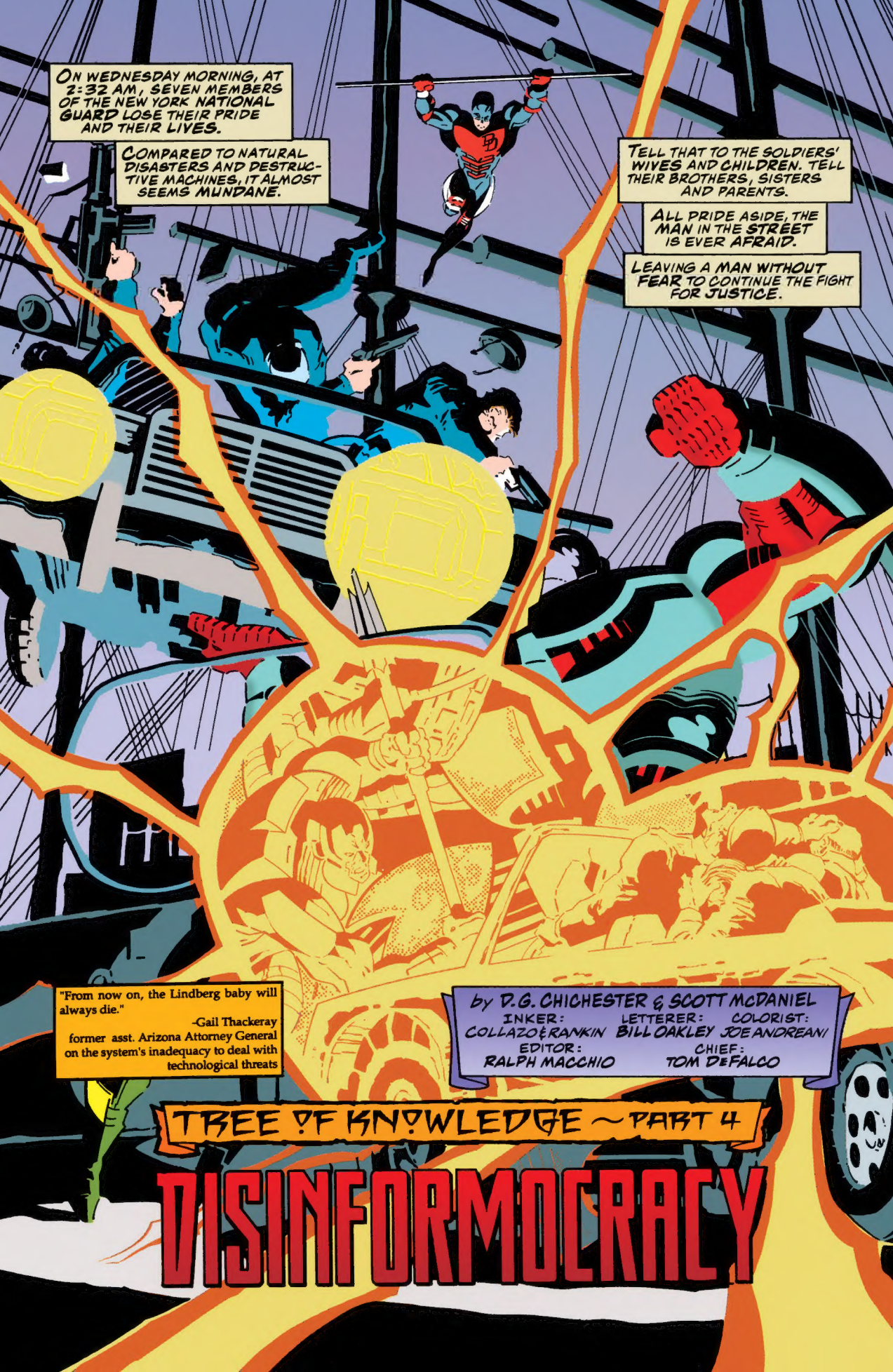


IN 1945, A B-25 BOMBER CRASHES INTO THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING'S 79TH FLOOR, RAINING TRAGEDY ON THE STREETS BELOW.



1991 IS MARKED BY A DRUNK SUBWAY MOTORMAN DERAILING A TRAIN FULL OF PASSENGERS ALONG UNION SQUARE STATION.

IN TYPICAL FASHION, NEW YORKERS HAVE COME TO TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR ABILITY TO SURVIVE CATASTROPHE.



ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, AT 2:32 AM, SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD LOSE THEIR PRIDE AND THEIR LIVES.

COMPARED TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND DESTRUCTIVE MACHINES, IT ALMOST SEEMS MUNDANE.

TELL THAT TO THE SOLDIERS' WIVES AND CHILDREN. TELL THEIR BROTHERS, SISTERS AND PARENTS.

ALL PRIDE ASIDE, THE MAN IN THE STREET IS EVER AFRAID.

LEAVING A MAN WITHOUT FEAR TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE.

"From now on, the Lindberg baby will always die."

-Gail Thackeray
former asst. Arizona Attorney General
on the system's inadequacy to deal with
technological threats

by D.G. CHICHESTER & SCOTT MCDANIEL
INKER: LETTERER: COLORIST:
COLLAZO & RANKIN BILL OAKLEY JOE ANDREANI
EDITOR: CHIEF:
RALPH MACCHIO TOM DEFALCO

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE ~ PART 4

DISINFORMOCRACY



THE "SILICON PIRATES"--SO-CALLED "INFORMATIONAL TERRORISTS"--CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY.

GUARD UNITS HAVE BEEN STATIONED AROUND THE CITY--LIKE HERE, AT SOUTH STREET SEA-PORT--TO PRESERVE ORDER.

STOP SCREWING AROUND, COLLAR--GET HIM!

SVVRAAK!

BUT IN TRUTH, "PIRATES" ARE ONLY A FRONT FOR SYSTEM CRASH, STRIKE FORCE OF THE ANARCHIST GROUP HYDRA.

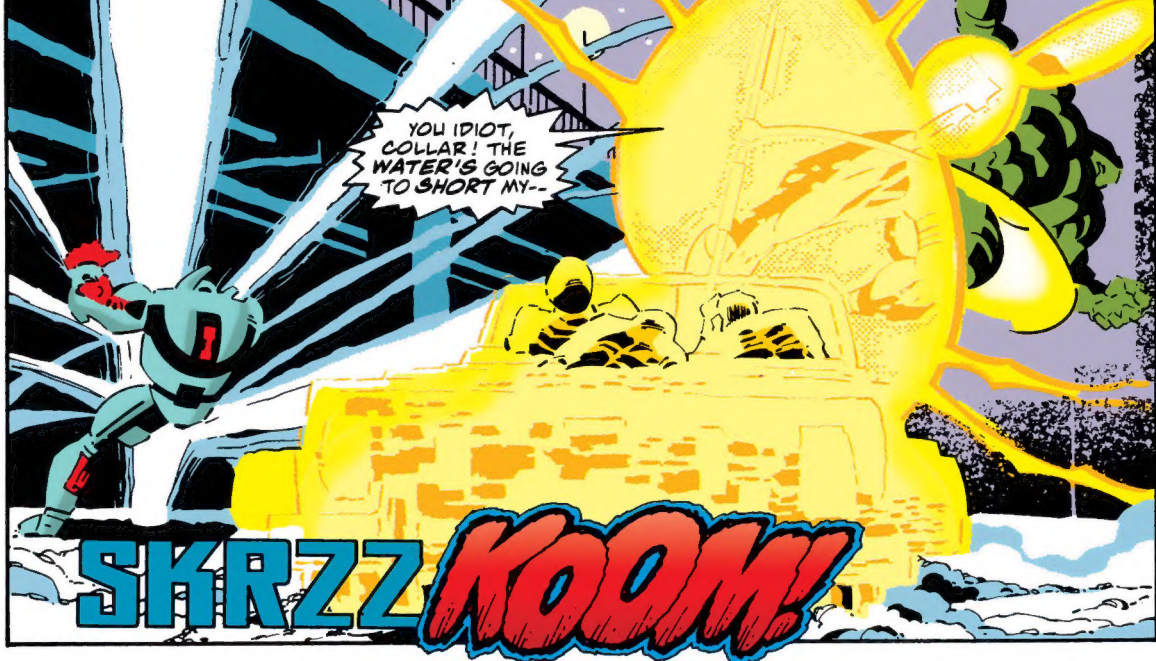
YOU HEARD THE MAN, ROBOT--COME AND GET ME!

I'M NOT A--

A SECRET SYSTEM CRASH IS WILLING TO KILL TO KEEP.

--ROBOT--?

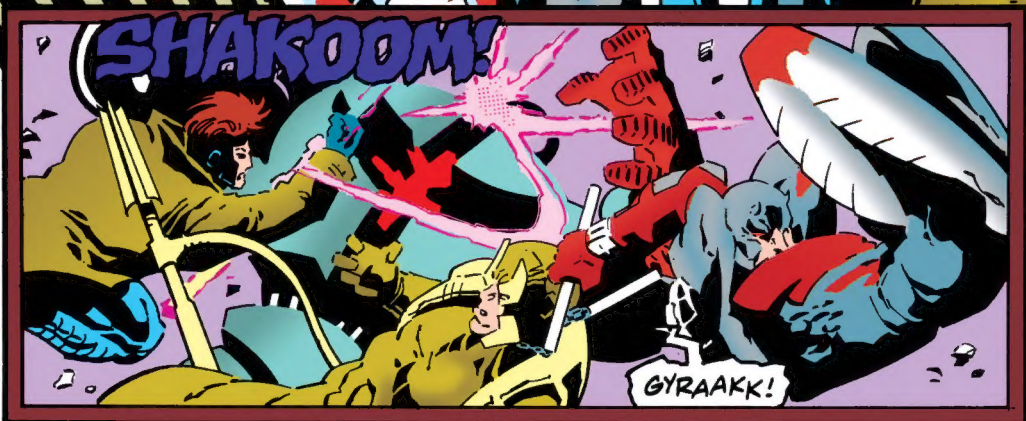
I WARNED YOU...





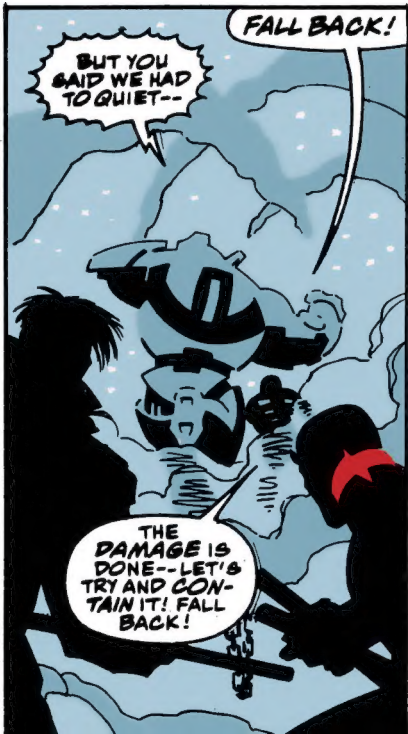


YOU GOT THAT RIGHT!



SHAKOOM!

GYRAAKK!



BUT YOU SAID WE HAD TO QUIET--

FALL BACK!

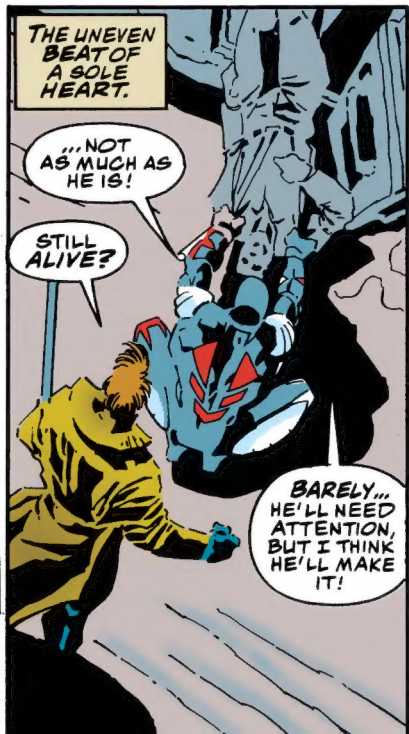
THE DAMAGE IS DONE--LET'S TRY AND CONTAIN IT! FALL BACK!



GO AROUND THE SIDE! I'LL DRIVE THEM--

NO. THEY'RE NOT IMPORTANT...

UNDER THE SOUND OF HISSING METAL.



THE UNEVEN BEAT OF A SOLE HEART.

...NOT AS MUCH AS HE IS!

STILL ALIVE?

BARELY... HE'LL NEED ATTENTION, BUT I THINK HE'LL MAKE IT!



YOU'RE ONE OF THE X-MEN, RIGHT? GAMBIT?

YOU KEEP YOUR EAR TO THE GROUND, OUI? HABITS LIKE THAT KEEP YOU ALIVE...

WORKS FOR ME.



HABITS LIKE THAT WILL KILL YOU.

AN' DANCIN' WIT' HEAVY MACHINERY'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH?



YOU HERE ON YOUR OWN, OR YOUR TEAM HAVE AN INTEREST?

WE WAS WONDERIN' IF DIS TERRORISM BE SOMETHIN' WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED WIT'...



...I WAS COMIN' IN THE CITY FOR SOME JAMBALAYA, SAID I'D CHECK IT OUT!

THE AVENGERS AN' FANTASTIC FOUR T'INK IT'S THESE "PIRATES"... WHAT ABOUT YOU?



EAR TO THE GROUND?

THIS ISN'T SOME TERRORIST CAUSE... THERE'S A PROFIT MOTIVE AT WORK! TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION...

THIEF'S A THIEF, WHETHER IT'S COIN OR COMPUTER DATA.

MIND IF I BORROW THIS? T'ANKS!



THIS IS A NUMBER FOR WETWARE-- ROVING RAVE CLUB-- PARTY SCENE FOR CYBER-THIEVES. MAYBE SOME ANSWERS.

I'M THE MINORITY VIEW. WHY LISTEN TO WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY?



'CAUSE WORD IS YOU AIN'T THE SAME DAREDEVIL, THAT YOU NOT TO BE TRUSTED. AN' I CAN RESPECT BEIN' STUCK WIT' THAT LABEL.

I'LL TELL M' FRIENDS IN WESTCHESTER THE SITUATION BE UNDER CONTROL.



DON'T MAKE A LIAR OUT O' ME, DEVIL...

DON'T WORRY.

43RD STREET, EAST
OF 7TH AVENUE.



"SMUTBUSTERS," A NOT-FOR-PROFIT OUTFIT WORKING TO TAKE THE HARD CORE OUT OF THE BIG APPLE.

TAKE THE
HARD
CORE
OUT
OF THE
BIG
APPLE

STOP
THE
HATE
AGAINST
WOMEN

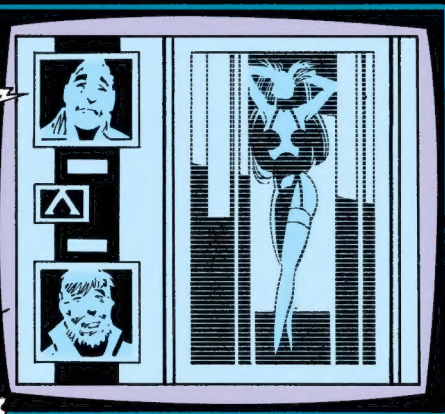


KAREN PAGE FINDS HER WORK
HERE HELPS BALANCE THE TIME
SHE WAS TRAPPED IN THE SEEDY
BUSINESS OF PORN.

JIM AND ARTIE O'FARELL
WANT TO LURE HER BACK.

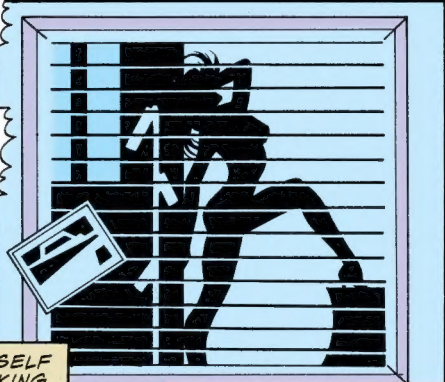
THIS COMPUTER DISK
DEMO IS SELF-RUNNING,
KAREN, SWEETHEART...
JUST LEAN BACK AND
ENJOY!

TELECONNECTIONS
KAREN! VIRTUAL
SEX! DESKTOP
VOYEURISM!



YOU SAID IT,
ARTIE! FULLY
INTERACTIVE
FOR THE USER!
POINT THE MOUSE,
CLICK THE
BUTTON--SHE
DOES WHATEVER,
WHENEVER!

WE'VE GOT
THE TECHNOLOGY,
KAREN, BUT
WE NEED THE
TALENT! YOUR
TALENT--YOUR
COMEBACK!



SHE HATES HERSELF
FOR EVEN LOOKING
AT THEIR "PROPOSAL."

DIGITAL FILTH. THERE'S
A BACK ALLEY YOU NEVER
FEAR WASHINGTON MAP-
PING OFF THE INFORMA-
TION HIGHWAY.

BUT WITH MATT DEAD--WITH
THE LOVE THEY'D JUST RE-
DISCOVERED STOLEN AWAY--
IT'S SO HARD TO KEEP FOCUSED.

IT'D BE SO EASY TO
LET GO OF THE HURT.

BACK IN FRONT OF
THE CAMERAS.

LOST IN A WORLD WHERE
SHE WOULDN'T HAVE TO
THINK. WHERE THEY'D
TELL HER WHAT TO DO.
AND WITH WHOM.

SHE COULD EVEN
PLAY PRETEND
AGAIN. ACT LIKE
IT WAS ART.



MAKE BELIEVE
SHE WASN'T
SELLING HER
SOUL ALONG WITH
HER BODY.

THE IMPACT JARS THE
MAGNETIC DRIVE HEAD
ACROSS THE DISK
INSIDE THE COMPUTERS.

SLICK GRAPHICS EXPLODE
IN A BURST OF BITS-AND-
BYTES STATIC.

NO!

BLIPK!

SYSTEM
ERROR. SERVES
ME RIGHT--

THE IMAGE FLICKERS
ON THE SCREEN FOR
ONLY AN INSTANT.

SHUDDERING FRAMES
OF COMPRESSED VIDEO.

ADULT HANDS,
GRASPING,
GROPING.

THERE'S NOTHING
PROVAGATIVE
HERE.

ONLY
SOMETHING
RAW AND
UGLY.

I'VE STILL GOT THE DISK,
AND I'M GOING TO GET
WHOEVER-- WHAT EVER--
DID THAT TO YOU, HONEY.

I SWEAR
I'M GOING TO
GET THEM...

BLIPK!

WHAT
WAS
THAT?!
WHAT
WAS--?!

OH, GOD,
SHE COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN
MORE THAN--

SHOW
ME AGAIN,
YOU STUPID
MACHINE--
SHOW
ME!

TRIBECA.

ELEKTRA
NATCHIOS'
DOJO.

THANK
YOU, FRANCIS—
EVERYTHING
LOOKS
MARVELOUS!

THE WAY
TO A MAN'S
HEART
IS THROUGH
HIS
STOMACH,
THAT IT,
MISS
NATCHIOS?

I FIND
OTHER
PARTS OF THE
MALE
ANATOMY
ARE MORE...
RESPONSIVE.

I'M SURE
YOU DO! I'LL
HAVE YOUR
ACCOUNT
BILLED ON
THIS...

LONG HOURS PASS,
EXPENSIVE CATERED
FARE GROWING COLD.

AND A PROUD WOMAN'S
RAGE BOILING OVER.

YOU SAID
SOMETHING ABOUT
DINNER, SO I PICKED
UP TAKE OUT...

...them.
course, uh, the
nice thing about
CHINESE IS
YOU'RE HUNGRY
AGAIN AN HOUR
LATER!

heh.

IT'S NOT
TO WORRY,
MATT... I
JUST
WANTED US
TO HAVE
A NICE
EVENING
TOGETHER...

WHAT
YOU'VE
GOT THERE
SMELLS A
COUPLE
HUNDRED
DOLLARS
NORTH OF
"NICE"...

DINNER WAS ONLY A
WARM-UP! WE HAVE
CATCHING UP TO DO!

FROM WHAT
WE WERE... FOR
WHAT YOU DID
FOR ME...

YOU KNOW YOU
DON'T MEAN
THAT! I CAN
FEEL YOUR HEART
RACING...

...YOUR
BODY
HOT...

ELEKTRA
...NO...



I SAID
NO!

WHAT IS
THIS? THAT
PAGE GIRL? YOUR
GIRL-FRIDAY
TURNED PORN
STAR?

SHE THINKS YOU'RE
DEAD, MATT-- JUST
LIKE YOUR PASSION
WAS WHEN YOU WERE
WITH HER INSTEAD
OF ME!



I CAN'T DENY
WHAT WE HAD,
ELEKTRA-- I DON'T
WANT TO! BUT PICK-
ING UP FROM THEN
DOESN'T CONSIDER
WHO I AM NOW--

--OR WHAT
MY FEELINGS ARE!
I'M NOT SOME
MERCY DATE THAT
YOU OWE FOR
PULLING YOU BACK
FROM THE GRAVE...

...AND I'M
NOT TUMBLING
IN THE SHEETS
BECAUSE YOU
THINK YOU'RE
IRRESIST-
IBLE!



I DON'T
THINK I LIKE THE
TONE IN YOUR
VOICE...

KLAANK!

LISTEN TO THE WORDS,
THEN! MATT MURDOCK MAY
BE "DEAD," BUT THAT
HASN'T STOPPED ME FROM
TRYING TO LIVE!

I'M SETTING
UP A LIFE FOR
MYSELF... MAYBE
YOU NEED TO
THINK ABOUT
THE SAME!

NOW, IF
YOU'LL EXCUSE
ME AND MY
EGG ROLL...



THE NINJA'S TRAINING GIVES
HER ONLY ONE RESPONSE.



THE WAY OF THE
ASSASSIN.

I'M USED
TO PAYING MY
DEBTS, MATT...
AND GETTING
WHAT I WANT!

DON'T
EXPECT THIS
TO BE ANY
DIFFERENT...

WEST 37TH STREET.

BEHIND THE GRIT,
THE SIGN PROCLAIMS:
"ANGER'S CLOCKS
& WATCHES--"

"--SERVING THE
PUBLIC IN
TIMELY WAYS
SINCE 1963."

UNDER THAT
COVER, THE
ESPIONAGE
AGENCY
S.H.I.E.L.D.
RUNS ITS
BRANCH
OFFICE.

M-MAKE
IT S-STOP!

THE
HARDWARE'S TIED
IN TOO TIGHT TO WHAT'S
LEFT OF HIS ORGANICS,
COLONEL FURY...

MEET JOHN
GARRETT.

ROGUE AGENT.

CYBORG
HARDCASE.

DRUNKEN
LECH.

YOU
#0\$!
FURY...
STOP...



... WE TAKE OUT
THOSE SYSTEMS, HE'S
GOING TO FLATLINE!

DON'T TEASE,
TECHNICIAN.

ALL RIGHT,
THEN... SHUT
IT DOWN!

MAKE
YOURSELF
PRETTY,
GARRETT--
OR WHAT
PASSES!

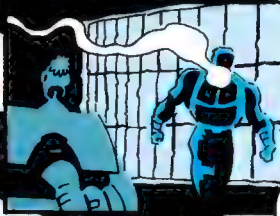
AND THAT
BLACK LUNG
YOU'RE WORK-
ING ON IS VERY
ATTRACTIVE TOO,
COLONEL!

WE'RE CONTINUING TO TRACK THE AVENGERS' AND FANTASTIC FOUR'S LIAISON WITH THE STATE MILITIA, SIR!



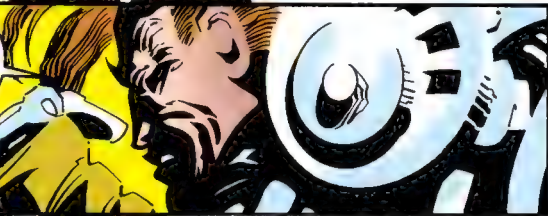
KEEP ON IT, AGENT! IF THE SUPER-GLIYS FUMBLE THIS "SILICON PIRATES" OP, WE'RE GONNA BE THE ONES TO CLEAN UP THE MESS!

WHAT A GUY! YOU STRAIGHT WITH ANYBODY, FURY?



OR DOES LACK OF DEPTH PERCEPTION MAKE THAT A PROBLEM?

ONLY DEPTH YOU GOTTA WORRY OVER IS SIX FEET UNDER, CYBORG!



I AIN'T LOOKING TO PUT YOU THERE-- YET-- BUT I AIN'T CUTTIN' YOU ALL THE WAY LOOSE, NEITHER!

YOU'RE ON RESERVE STATUS, HERE AN' NOW! NOT THAT I WANT YOU ON MY TEAM...



THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A BETTER MAN OF MYSELF...

...I ONLY HOPE I CAN LIVE UP TO THE COVERT, WARMONGERING STRONG-ARM IDEAL YOU SET SO WELL, NICKY!



WHERE'S THE BABY-SITTER?

ON-LINE, SIR!

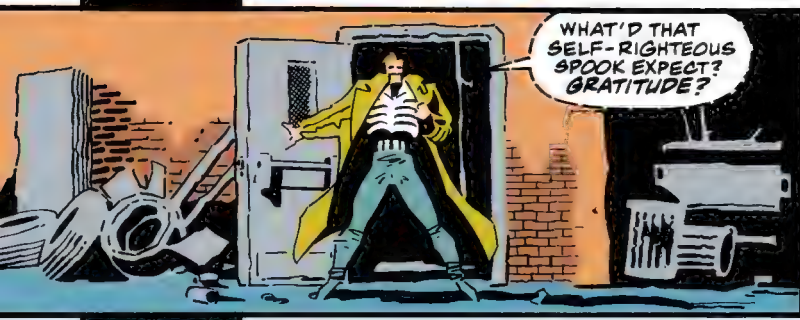


...BUT IT MAKES YOU ANSWERABLE TO RULES O' CONDUCT!

BREAK 'EM AN' I BREAK YOU! CAPIBONE?



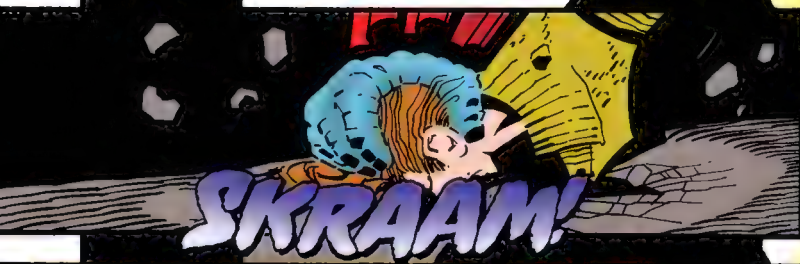
OH, YES, SIR, COLONEL FURY, SIR!



WHAT'D THAT
SELF-RIGHTEOUS
SPOOK EXPECT?
GRATITUDE?



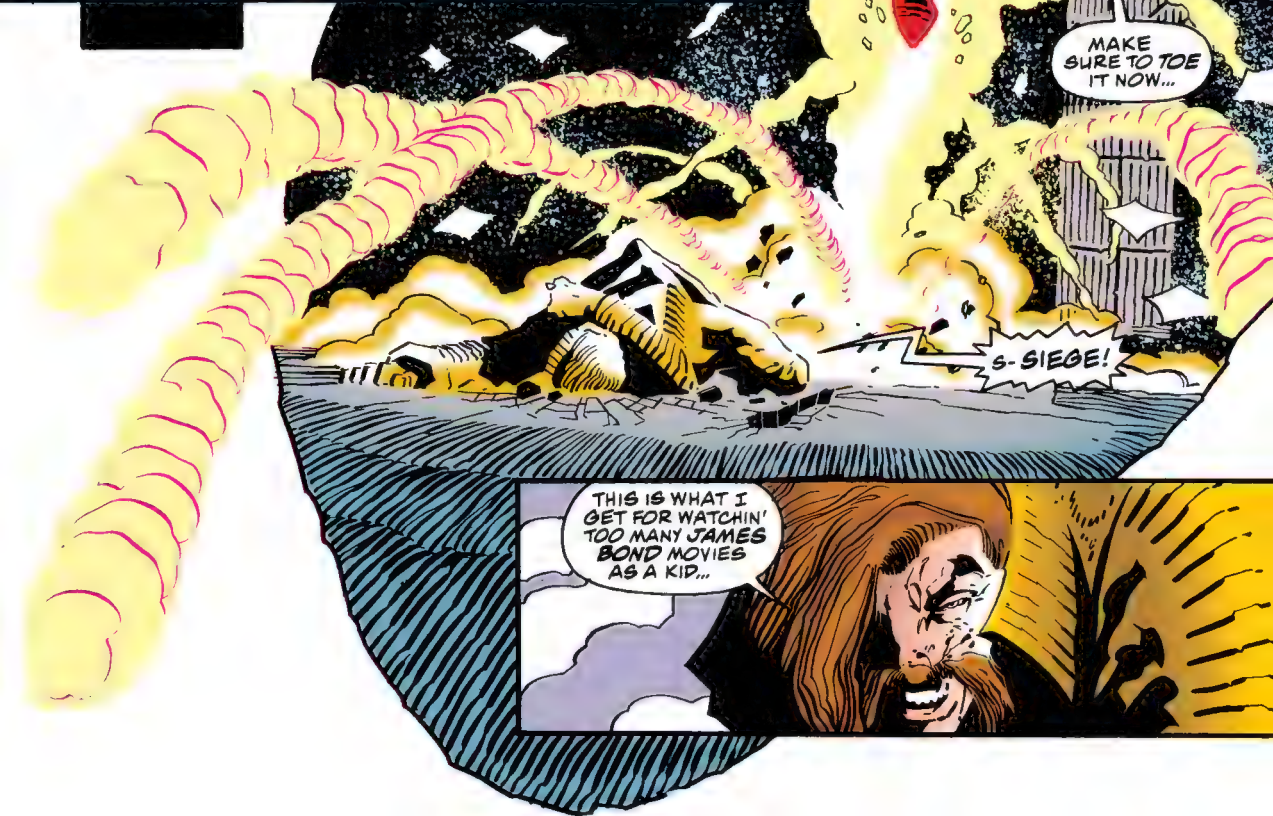
OBEDIENCE
WILL DO,
JOHNNY-BOY!



SKRAAM!



NOTE
THE
LINE!



MAKE
SURE TO TOE
IT NOW...

S-SIEGE!

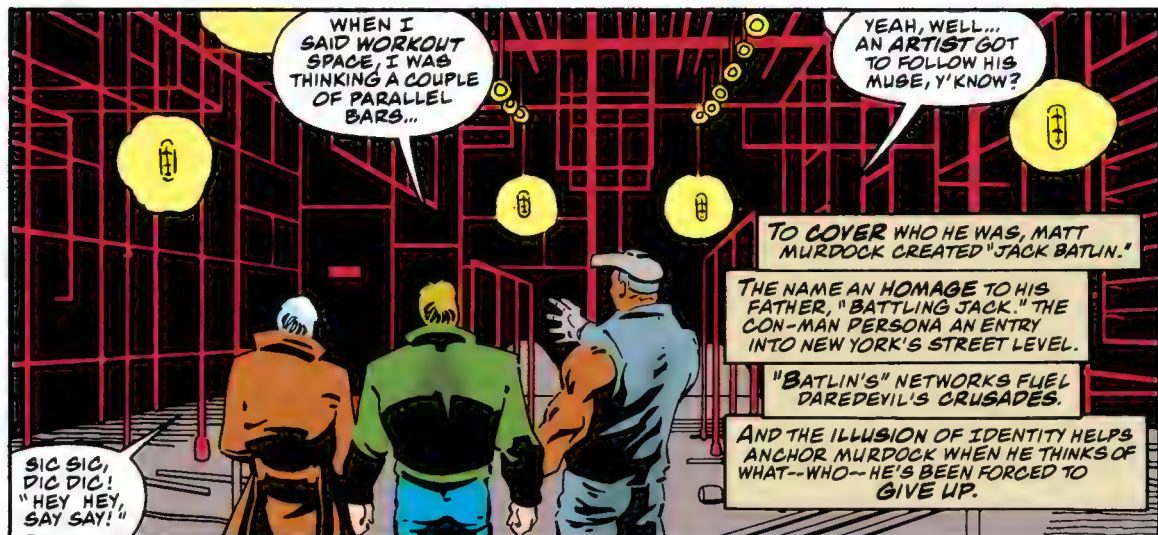
THIS IS WHAT I
GET FOR WATCHIN'
TOO MANY JAMES
BOND MOVIES
AS A KID...



AVENUE C.

BUILDIN'S
YOURS, BATLIN,
SOON'S I PUT ON
THE FINISHIN'
TOUCHES!

I---I
DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO SAY,
STITHY!



WHEN I
SAID WORKOUT
SPACE, I WAS
THINKING A COUPLE
OF PARALLEL
BARS...

YEAH, WELL...
AN ARTIST GOT
TO FOLLOW HIS
MUSE, Y'KNOW?

TO COVER WHO HE WAS, MATT
MURDOCK CREATED "JACK BATLIN."

THE NAME AN HOMAGE TO HIS
FATHER, "BATTLING JACK." THE
CON-MAN PERSONA AN ENTRY
INTO NEW YORK'S STREET LEVEL.

"BATLIN'S" NETWORKS FUEL
DAREDEVIL'S CRUSADES.

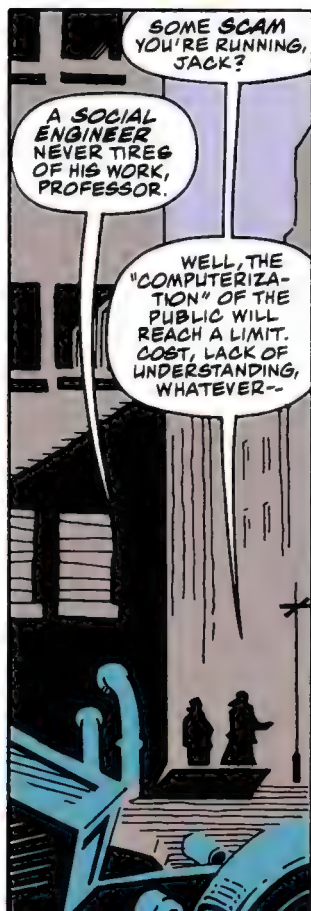
AND THE ILLUSION OF IDENTITY HELPS
ANCHOR MURDOCK WHEN HE THINKS OF
WHAT--WHO-- HE'S BEEN FORCED TO
GIVE UP.

SIC SIC,
DIC DIC!
"HEY HEY,
SAY SAY!"



NOW GET! MY
INSPIRATION
DON'T LIKE
COMPANY!

YOU TEACH
MEDIA AT ESH,
LAMAR, RIGHT?
GIMME HIGHBROW
2 CENTS ON THE
AVERAGE JOE AND
THIS INFO
HIGHWAY...



SOME SCAM
YOU'RE RUNNING,
JACK?

A SOCIAL
ENGINEER
NEVER TIRES
OF HIS WORK,
PROFESSOR.

WELL, THE
"COMPUTERIZA-
TION" OF THE
PUBLIC WILL
REACH A LIMIT.
COST, LACK OF
UNDERSTANDING,
WHATEVER--



--SOME PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO BE LEFT
OUT IN THE COLD.
DECENT PEOPLE,
PEOPLE WHO'D THRIVE
IN ANOTHER
SITUATION--

NOW THEY'RE
OUTCASTS,
TRAPPED IN
THE DARK...

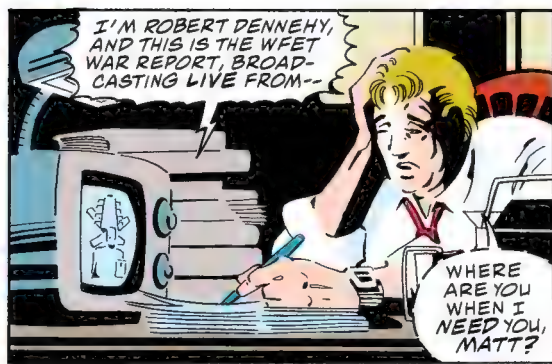
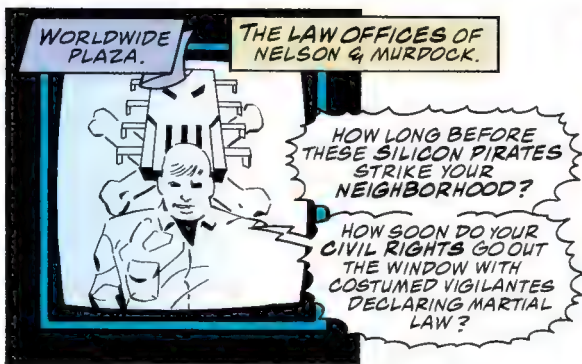
YOU SOUND
LIKE YOU'VE
ALREADY BEEN
THERE!



HMM. OVERACTIVE
IMAGINATION.

IMAGINE THE
NEW MASTERS OF
CYBERSPACE, THEN!
HOW WILL THEY
REGARD THE OUTSIDERS?
WITH CONTEMPT?
INDIFFERENCE?

OR MAYBE
IT'LL BE
FEAR...



NEW YORK BOTANICAL
GARDENS, THE BRONX.

SYSTEM CRASH HAS TURNED
AN UNDERGROUND GREEN-
HOUSE HERE INTO A BASE
OF OPERATIONS.

THE TERRORIST WIREHEAD SEES
IT SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY.

THE MUD-- WIREHEAD'S
MULTI-USER DUNGEON.
SENSORY IMMERSION
AND INTERACTION THAT'S
OUT OF THIS WORLD.

>You see a foul warrior
ghoul, slashing his way
through the dank rain-
forest.

>There is a mythic jack-
hammer impaled in the
rock at your feet. It
hums with ghoul-searing
power.

>Take jackhammer! Take jack-
hammer!

>You take the jackhammer.
It v-v-vibrates in your
hands.

YOUR WEAPONS ARE USELESS
AGAINST ME, WIREHEAD! DO YOU
FORGET THAT I GAVE THEM TO
YOU TO BEGIN WITH?!

N-NO, BARON
STRUCKER... I MEAN, I
DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN'! I
WAS JUST IN HACK MODE
--Y'KNOW, PLAYIN'
AROUND!

YOU'RE PATHETIC!
A VIRTUAL REALITY
ADDICT! THIS IS NO
GAME!



--SILICON PIRATES
CONTINUE TO WORRY
OFFICIALS--

THIS IS A
CRUSADE! A
CAMPAIGN OF
ANARCHY--

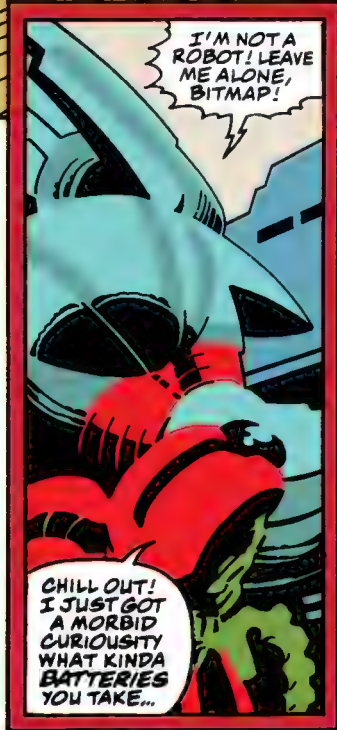
--AND ONLY
THOSE WHO
SURVIVE THE
CHAOS CAN BE
DEEMED
WORTHY!

HIGH
ENOUGH,
KILLOBYTE?

HARD
DRIVE
ACCESS
DENIED!

WORRY MORE 'BOUT
THE ROBOT'S SERVO-
MOTORS CUTTIN' OUT!

JUST DON'T GET
MUSCLE FATIGUE,
STEEL COLLAR...



I'M NOT A
ROBOT! LEAVE
ME ALONE,
BITMAP!

CHILL OUT!
I JUST GOT
A MORBID
CURIOSITY
WHAT KINDA
BATTERIES
YOU TAKE...



SATELLITE TAP CONFIRMS IT,
PEOPLE! TERRORIST
ACTIVITY HAS SPOOKED THE
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY!

THEY'RE PULLIN' THE
NEW YORK LINE EATER
OUTTA THE NET SO IT
CAN'T BE USED TO HACK
INTO THE SYSTEM!

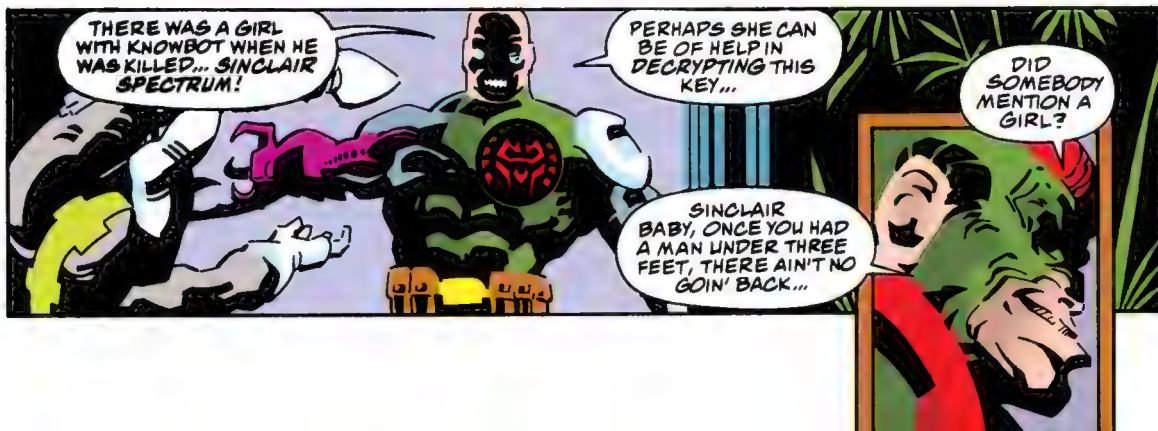
WE MOVE IN NOW
AND NOBODY'LL KNOW
WE BEEN THERE...



EXCELLENT, TECHNOSPIKE...
NOW TO WHERE THIS "LINE
EATER" FEEDS! WHAT
PROGRESS, INFOMORPH?

S-SLOW, BARON...
KNOWBOT'S ENCRYPTION
KEEPS A LOCK ON THE
DATA HE STOLE FOR US!
I'LL T-TRY USING ONE
OF HIS COHORTS...

RENDER COBOL
CHARLIE IMAGE WITH
BIO-GOURAUD
SHADING...



THERE WAS A GIRL
WITH KNOWBOT WHEN HE
WAS KILLED... SINCLAIR
SPECTRUM!

PERHAPS SHE CAN
BE OF HELP IN
DECRYPTING THIS
KEY...

DID
SOMEBODY
MENTION A
GIRL?

SINCLAIR
BABY, ONCE YOU HAD
A MAN UNDER THREE
FEET, THERE AIN'T NO
GOIN' BACK...

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS.

TONIGHT'S SITE FOR
THE WETWARE RAVE.

A NOMADIC DANCE
PARTY, ORGANIZED BY
ELECTRONIC-MAIL.

INDUSTRIAL MUSIC MIXES
MACHINE CLANKS, ELEC-
TRONIC FEEDBACK, RANDOM
RADIO NOISE.

THE SOUNDS A CULTURE
MAKES AS IT COMES UNGLWED.

STROBING LIGHT AND SOUND
TRIGGER SYNAPSES IN
THE BRAIN.

THE HUMAN BODY BECOMES
A HACK SITE, FLESH AND
TECHNOLOGY FORGING A
STRANGE, NEW ALLIANCE.

TELL HIM, EMOTICON
...TELL HIM LIKE YOU
TOLD ME...

THE "LINE EATERS", OH,
YEAH! MUNCH-MUNCH!

MY BOY
KNOWBOT WAS
INTO 'EM--
BEFORE HE
COOKED, O'
COURSE! SIZZLE-
POP!

MYTHIC, MAN! THE NSA--
"NO SUCH AGENCY"--THEY
SET THEIR LINE EATERS TO
TRACK YOUR CALLS!
RING-A-DING!

YOU HOOK
YOURSELF INTO THE
NET-- PHONE, COMPUTERS
--AND THEY WATCH YOUR
EVERY WORD! MUTTER-
GAB!

LOOKIN' FOR WHAT
YOU GOT TO SAY THEY
THINK TOUCHY-FEELS
ON "NATIONAL SECURITY"?
STARS-AN'-STRIPES!

AN' MAYBE
THEY DON'T LIKE
YOUR RAP... AN'
MAYBE THAT DAY
THE LINE EATERS
CAME TO EAT YOU!
GOBBLE-GOBBLE!

I'M GONE--
BEAM-ME-
OUTTA-HERE-
SCOTTY!

NICE LOOK YOU'VE GOT
THERE, BY THE WAY,
CAPTAIN AMERICA...

I'VE HAD MY
SHARE OF COVERT
TRAINING. NOT
THAT YOU'RE ONE
TO TALK ABOUT
APPEARANCES,
DAREDEVIL...

WHATEVER HORNS YOU WEAR, THE EVIDENCE IS AGAINST YOUR BEING THE SAME MAN WHO USED TO HOLD THAT TITLE!

THEN WHY DID YOU COME HERE LIKE I ASKED?

I'M STILL NOT... COMFORTABLE... WITH THE AVENGERS' POSITION ON THIS TERRORISM! THE "PIRATES" ARE TOO CONVENIENT A SUSPECT...

...AND MARTIAL LAW AS A SOLUTION RUNS COUNTER TO EVERY GOOD I'VE HEARD IS SUPPOSED TO COME OFF THIS "INFOBAHN"!

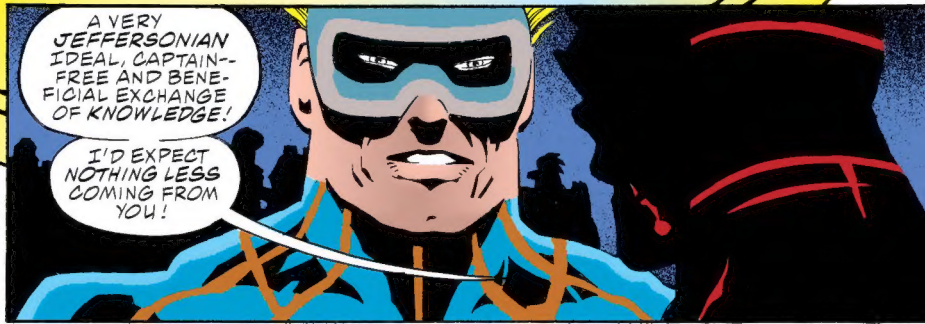
A FATHER IS, SAY, A TAILOR! ALTERING PATTERNS WITH A LIGHT PEN, TRANSMITTING THEM TO HIS CUSTOMERS!


MOM'S A REAL ESTATE AGENT... WORKS AT HOME! A PORTABLE TERMINAL KEEPS HER UPON LISTINGS WHILE SHE WORKS OUT!

THEIR SON LOGS ON TO ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS, ADVANCING HIMSELF THROUGH MULTIMEDIA DATABASES!

A VERY JEFFERSONIAN IDEAL, CAPTAIN-- FREE AND BENEFICIAL EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE!

I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS COMING FROM YOU!





BUT WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR THE ACCESS TO THESE MIRACLE SYSTEMS?

AND IF SOMEONE CAN'T PAY, WHAT RIGHT DO THEY HAVE TO SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T HAD A HAND IN DEVELOPING?

EXCUSE ME IF I PLAY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE FOR A SECOND...

WHAT IF MOM SELLS FLESH INSTEAD OF HOMES? SHE'S A MADAM, YOU SEE-- BEAMING IMAGES OF PROSTITUTES IN ACTION TO PROSPECTIVE CLIENTS?

DAD, HE'S A NARCO-TRAFFICKER. ENCRYPTION AND PHONE FORWARDING KEEP HIS DRONES FROM KNOWING WHO HE IS...

...WHILE DIGITAL CASH KEEPS HIS MONEY BOTH HIDDEN AROUND THE WORLD AND AT HIS FINGERTIPS!

AND JUNIOR? A SPACED-OUT MOUSE-JOCKEY-- THE NEW BREED OF DISAFFECTED TEEN WHOSE "LIFE" IS CRACKING COMPUTERS!

I CAN'T SAY I MUCH LIKE YOUR VISION...

I DON'T TELL THE FUTURE, CAPTAIN.

BUT WHICHEVER ONE OF US IS RIGHT, CAN WE AFFORD TO HAVE SOMEONE SCREWING AROUND WITH EITHER TOMORROW?

THE TOMBS PRISON.

100 CENTRE STREET, MANHATTAN.

OF COURSE THE DATACOPS HAVE TO CALL ME A THIEF!

OTHERWISE, THEY'RE USING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM ON PEOPLE WHO WANT TO LEARN THINGS THAT ARE FORBIDDEN!

AND IN AMERICA, ANY PRETEXT FOR PUNISHMENT IS BETTER THAN JAILING PEOPLE TO PROTECT RESTRICTED INFO!

I'M ONLY A COURT-APPOINTED PUBLIC DEFENDER, MS. SPECTRUM... I'M NOT PAID TO CARE ABOUT YOUR POLITICAL VIEWS!

HOW CAN YOU HELP IF YOU WON'T TAKE TIME TO UNDERSTAND?

FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE IS THE BASIC CURRENCY OF THE DIGITAL UNDERGROUND! THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

NOT 500 HOME SHOPPING CHANNELS! NOT PAY-PER-VIEW MOVIES ON DEMAND! NOT--

DID YOU KNOW THE GOVERNMENT WANTS TO STICK SOMETHING CALLED A CLIPPER CHIP IN ALL OUR PHONES, OUR FAX MACHINES, OUR COMPUTERS?

IT'D GIVE THEM A BACK DOOR TO TAP INTO YOUR COMMUNICATIONS! SO LONG PRIVACY, HELLO BIG BROTHER!

PLEASE, NOT AGAIN--

LOOK, THEY DON'T CALL PROSECUTOR MALPER "THE DRAGON LADY" FOR NOTHING! SHE'S GOING TO NAIL YOU UNLESS WE PLEA THIS DOWN--

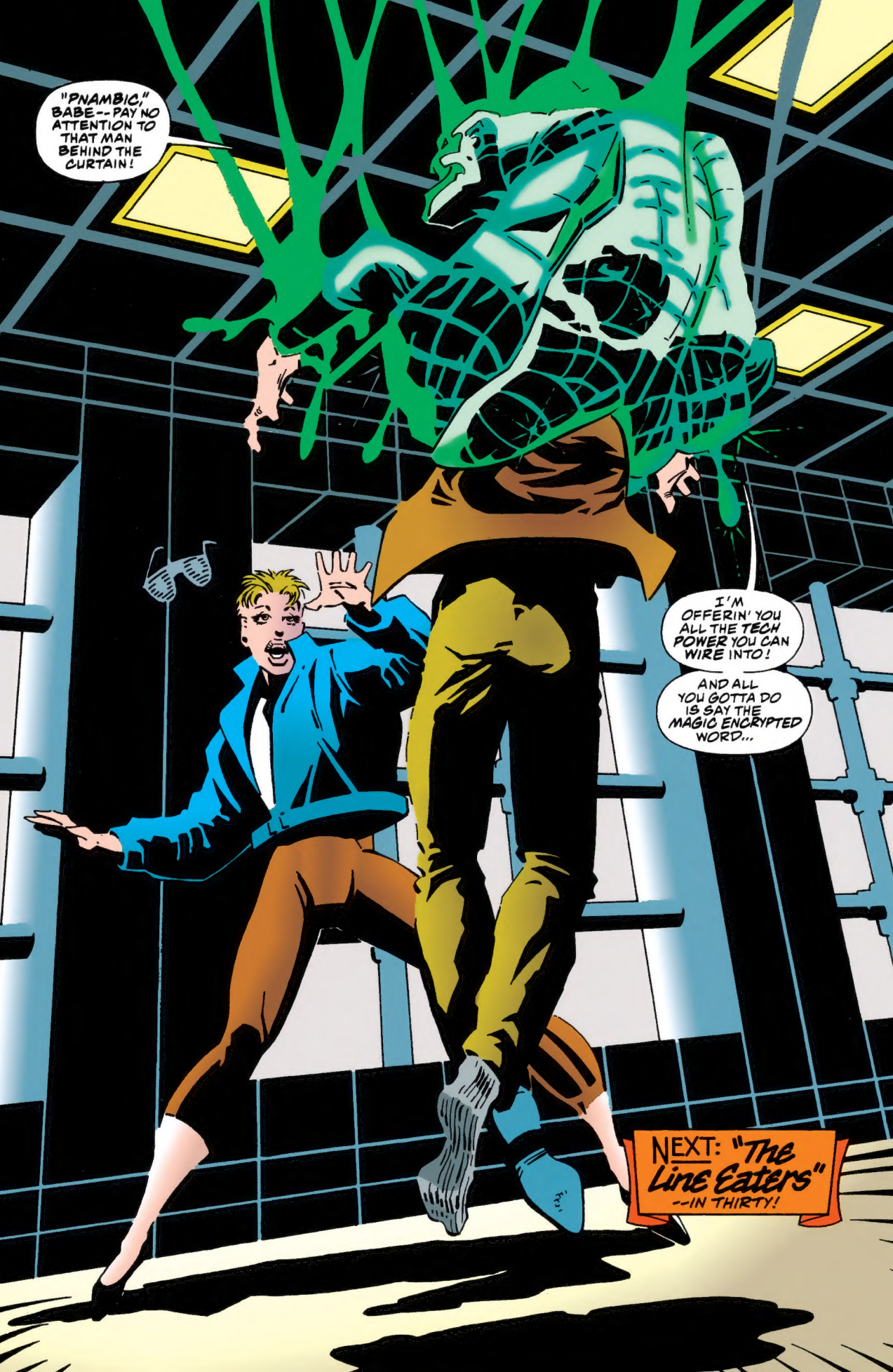
--P-PLEASE
--N-NO--

DON'T WHINE! I'LL STOP ALREADY--

--OMIGOD--

Y'KNOW, SISTER, YOU TALK A GOOD BLEEDIN' HEART TALK... BUT UNDERNEATH, Y'KNOW WHAT I HEAR?

SAME AS ANY OTHER DARK-SIDE HACKER-- ALL HOT AND BOTHERED BY THE PROMISE OF TECHNICAL POWER!



"PNAMBIC,"
BABE--PAY NO
ATTENTION TO
THAT MAN
BEHIND THE
CURTAIN!

I'M
OFFERIN' YOU
ALL THE TECH
POWER YOU CAN
WIRE INTO!

AND ALL
YOU GOTTA DO
IS SAY THE
MAGIC ENCRYPTED
WORD...

NEXT: "The
Line Eaters"
--IN THIRTY!